

Village of Merriam Woods Receives \$525,000 for Well and Storage Standpipe

Jerry Finley, Rural Development Manager, USDA Rural Development, presented a Mock Check in the amount of \$525,000 to Merriam Woods during a ceremony held on November 19, 2004, at the Village Hall. A user base of 560 residents and businesses will benefit from the installation of a second, chlorinated well, storage standpipe, and new pump house located in the southern area. A new well is being installed on a tract of land owned by the Village with a 14' diameter by 135' tall water storage standpipe. The standpipe will allow for the required disinfection time needed along with providing an additional storage standpipe. The standpipe will also provide better hydraulic operation and a needed pressure increase in the upper portions of the southern area. This project will include additional water lines to tie and loop dead end lines into an existing system and provide additional looping to help boost pressures and flows in the system, along with new controls for a two well "zoned" separated upper and lower system.



Left to Right: Jeff Ceperly, Simmons Engineering Inc; Bruce Hively, Rural Development Specialist; Patrick Morrow, Senator Bond's Representative; Nathan Correll, Senator Talent's Representative; Brian Bowers, Simmons Engineering Inc; David Popejoy, President of the Board; David Winne, Jerry Winne, and Bill Kitchin, Board members; and Jerry Finley, Rural Development Manager

A \$800,000 Combined Water Revenue Bond Issue was passed by the Village. The new system, with an estimated cost of \$755,000, is being funded through a partnership effort. Rural Development (RD) loan funds in the amount of \$400,000, RD grant funds of \$270,000, and the Village's contribution of \$85,000 will be used to finance the project.

Chairman David Popejoy stated, "The Board of Trustees greatly appreciates the support of our legislators in making this project happen and again must thank the voters for approving the bonds for financing. The addition of the new well and storage tank will enhance the Village's capacity to provide quality drinking water to our citizens for several years to come".

Project Engineer, Andy Simmons of Simmons Engineering Company in Republic, provided the design and construction oversight for the project. Harper Drilling Company from Clinton, Missouri, and Circle P Welding of Norman, Oklahoma, are the General Contractors.

Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development said, "U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Roy Blunt have been, and continue to be, strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians by making available federal funds for these kinds of rural projects."

"Having an environmentally safe water system is important to the residents and I commend all the partners for their hard work making this project a reality, said Branum. "This project mirrors President Bush's initiatives for rural America and exemplify the Rural Development mission – committed to the future of rural communities".

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Bruce Hively, Rural Development Specialist, at 688 S State Highway B, Suite 400, Springfield MO, 65802 or by calling (417) 831-5246 extension 5 or by email to bruce.hively@mo.usda.gov.

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“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

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